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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5360**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES.***

##### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires major parties to include the signatures of (1) candidates they endorse to run in a primary for municipal office (including legislative candidates running in single district towns) in the list of nominations they certify to the town clerk and (2) delegates to state or district conventions in the certifications they file with town clerks.

Current law, PA 11-173, established the signature requirement for certificates of minor party nominations of municipal, legislative, and statewide office candidates. The bill deems invalid any such certificate that the secretary of the state or town clerk, as appropriate, does not receive by the 62<sup>nd</sup> day before the election at which the nominee is a candidate. If invalidated, the party is deemed to have not nominated or certified any candidate for the office in the same way that major parties are deemed to have not nominated or certified a candidate for municipal office if the certificate is not received by the town clerk by 4:00 p.m. on the 48<sup>th</sup> day preceding the primary.

The bill requires the secretary of the state to prescribe, and furnish to town clerks, a standard form for major and minor parties to use to certify municipal and minor party candidates, respectively. The secretary must make the form available on her website. The bill allows, but does not require, major or minor parties to use the form. It prohibits town clerks or the secretary from rejecting an endorsement for lack of a signature before the form is available.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

##### **CERTIFICATION FORM**

The form must include prompts for information required by law and under the bill, including a request and spaces for:

1. the signed and printed or typed name of each party nominee,
2. the full address of each such person, and
3. any other information required in the certification process.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2014)